

TOWCESTER U3A

England & Wales · Charity number 1155428

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2014-01-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Towcester
Northamptonshire
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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE EDUCATION OF OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED FROM FULL TIME WORK, BY ALL MEANS INCLUDING ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Activities: The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Towcester and its surrounding locality.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£40,793	£37,781	-	-
2024-02-29	£35,479	£30,931	-	-
2023-02-28	£29,167	£29,777	-	-
2022-02-28	£18,134	£17,049	-	-
2021-02-28	£9,913	£8,720	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Deborah Ann Heaphy	Chair	2022-06-06
Alison Foxton		2022-06-06
Alison Jane Burnley		2022-12-05
Elaine Marilyn Shone		2023-08-07
Jennifer Louise Rigby		2023-05-31
Jill Amanda Stewart		2021-09-13
Patricia Anne Moore		2023-05-31
Patricia Anne Parkes		2021-06-07
Terrence Alan Goldfinch		2020-07-20

TOWCESTER U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1155428

Accounts



TOWCESTER u3a Registered Charity Number 1155428 Annual Report for period from AGM May 2024 to AGM May 2025

At our AGM at the end of May 2024, a committee was elected. The majority of the previous committee agreed to serve for another year, apart from Stephen Porter who stood down as Chair and post he held for 2 years and for which the Committee are very grateful. Deborah Heaphy agreed to step up to the role of Chair and Tricia Burningham agreed to add Business Secretary to her existing role of Minute Secretary. Alison Foxton agreed to be Vice-Chair.

The day to day running of the branch has returned to normal, but we have continued with the digital voting for the purposes of the AGM.

Trustee Committee Members

The Trustee Committee Members responsible for managing Towcester u3a during the above period were:

Deborah Heaphy (Chairman, elected May 2024)
Terry Goldfinch (Treasurer re-elected May 2024)
Tricia Burningham (Business secretary elected May 2024)
Alison Foxton (Publicity secretary re-elected May 2024)
Anne Parkes (Speaker Seeker re-elected May 2024)
Jill Stewart (Group Co-ordinator – re-elected May 2024)
Alison Burnley (Membership secretary re-elected May 2024)
Jenny Rigby (Webmaster) re-elected May 2024
Marilyn Shone (re-elected May 2024)

The committee meet regularly on the first Monday of each month, except for January. The branch has progressed, and this is reflected in the membership increasing. All members of the committee are standing for re-election at the 2025 AGM.

Charitable Purpose, Structure and Governance

The u3as in the UK are autonomous, self-help organisations run by the voluntary efforts of their members. All u3as are members of the Third Age Trust (TAT), a registered charity, which is the national support and advisory body. Each u3a is operationally independent but as members of the Third Age Trust each agrees to follow the principles of the u3a movement. Being a self-help learning co-operative is what makes u3a unique.

Towcester u3a was formed in 2010 with the stated charitable purpose of the advancement of education of those who are retired from full time work, by activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Towcester and its surrounding area. Towcester u3a is a registered charity governed by our constitution which was amended in 2018, and then again in 2019, and again in 2021 to allow for virtual meetings. Our committee members are charity trustees and are elected by the membership at the AGM although new trustees may be co-opted in between AGMs and then stand for election at the next AGM.

Groups

We have seen a change in both group numbers and group subjects.

Overall, it has been a productive year with six new groups: Boys Toys 3, Strollers, Photography, Spirituality, Sunday Lunch group and Tennis.

A change of leaders for Ramblers 2 and Strollers – and with that process comes a degree of self-analysis within the group and new ideas appear. This has resulted in more group input from its members and more sharing of tasks. This process in turn leads to greater individual confidence and enjoyment of group meetings.

The loss of Coffee and Cake explorers occurred due to low numbers and a mismatch on group aims.

The general increase in leader interest in the Simple Membership software has been heartwarming! At last, the benefits of this system are being realised, and any leader change is now smooth from the group communications aspect.

The tuition continues.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings at Towcestrians have continued during the last year with some great speakers. We are noticing a steady increase in attendance and the variety of speakers is meaning a different audience at each meeting. We have invested funds in improving the audio-visual equipment used at these meetings which has benefitted all with better sound quality.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 635 as of 28.2.2025. We have held a number of New Members' Meetings at the Sawpits Centre at which new (and old) members had the opportunity to find out what interest groups are available and to meet some of the group coordinators. These continue to be well quite well attended, and we plan to hold another one towards the end of this year. We have also started to bring the membership up to date by going fully digital. Our Membership Secretary Alison Burnley has been working very hard

to get Group Leaders to make use of our digital system "Simple Membership" to manage their groups as well as offering members the opportunity of renewing their memberships and booking events such as the monthly meetings. We are making progress with this and offer a regular opportunity for assistance at various events.

Publicity

Our main publicity vehicle is our website, at <https://www.towcesteru3a.co.uk/>, and we also publish regular items in the Towcester Town Crier and the Towcester Focus magazine.

For our members we issue a monthly Bulletin and we have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TowcesterU3A> which members can join and post news items and photos.

Finance

Towcester u3a financial statement for the year ended 28th February 2025, as examined by Essendon Accounts & Tax Ltd., is the subject of a separate document. In summary, our income over the year was £13,808, whilst expenditure was less than anticipated at £10,460, leaving a surplus of £3,348. The committee authorised capital expenditure on audio visual equipment of £2,509, with the balance of the surplus being added to reserves. Inflationary pressures have not been as great as anticipated, and Anne Parkes has once again managed to secure speakers for our monthly meetings at very reasonable rates. We expect income and expenditure in the coming year to be in the region of £12,000. We do not expect to need to increase the membership fee for the foreseeable future.

Chairman's Remarks

I agreed to take on the role of Chairman after Stephen Porter stood down at the 2024 AGM. Although I needed some persuasion, my main reason for accepting is that your Committee work so well as a team. I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the committee who have done an excellent job of working together so well to make the branch the success it is. I am hopeful that the membership will continue to grow in the coming year, that we will see more new groups being formed, providing all our members with new interests and friendships and hopefully some fun along the way.

Thank you all.

Deborah Heaphy

Chair.

Towcester U3A (Charity Number 1155428)**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 28 February 2025****Income**

	Year Ended 28 February 2025			Year Ended 29 February 2024		
	Groups	Main	Total	Groups	Main	Total
Activity Groups: General Income	26,985	0	26,985	23,390	0	23,390
Group Leaders lunch receipts	0	796	796	0	0	0
Annual Membership Subscriptions	0	12,490	12,490	0	12,024	12,024
Donations & Sundry Income	0	418	418	0	5	5
Anniversary Sponsorship	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest Received	0	104	104	0	60	60
Total Income	26,985	13,808	40,793	23,390	12,089	35,479

Expenditure

	Year Ended 28 February 2025			Year Ended 29 February 2024		
	Groups	Main	Total	Groups	Main	Total
Accountancy	0	-168	-168	0	-160	-160
Activity costs: Coach trips	-5,325	0	-5,325	-2,760	0	-2,760
Group Leaders lunch	0	-853	-853	0	0	0
Capitation fees	0	-2,548	-2,548	0	-2,384	-2,384
Car Parking for Garden Visits Group	-361	0	-361	-45	0	-45
Consumable materials	-240	0	-240	-174	0	-174
Direct mail of national magazine	0	-1,722	-1,722	0	-1,435	-1,435
Entrance & admission fees	-7,622	0	-7,622	-7,421	0	-7,421
Food & refreshments for meetings	-1,621	-130	-1,751	-1,852	-10	-1,862
Gratuities & Gifts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Licenses	0	-195	-195	0	-108	-108
Membership Database	0	-660	-660	0	-660	-660
Motor & travel expenses	0	-16	-16	0	-40	-40
Postage, stationery & sundry office expenses	-228	-258	-486	-133	-279	-412
Publishing Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Room & venue hire	-11,835	-2,762	-14,597	-9,291	-2,788	-12,079
Speaker fees & costs	-89	-970	-1,059	-438	-788	-1,226
Sundry - Anniversary Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sundry - Card Reader Fees	0	-13	-13	0	-25	-25
Sundry - Other	0	-25	-25	0	0	0
Website	0	-140	-140	0	-140	-140
Total Expenditure	-27,321	-10,460	-37,781	-22,114	-8,817	-30,931
Excess Income over Expenditure	-336	3,348	3,012	1,276	3,272	4,548

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Activity groups hold their own funds and operate on a self-financing basis. Their general income is therefore determined by whatever level of expense they incur. Group leaders are responsible for the maintenance of their financial records. A summary of their finances for the year ended 28 February 2025 is provided on a following page. Due to the need to report these finances in a simple and straight forward manner without excessive detail, this summary has been prepared on a strict receipts and payments basis without regard for any accruals or prepayments.
- 2 The Executive Committee has sole responsibility for the Main finances.

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Total Cost b/fwd
Add: Purchases this year
Less: Disposals this year
Total cost to-date
Less: Total depreciation to-date

Current Assets

Cash at bank - main account
Cash at bank - no. 2 account (Garden Visits)
Cash at Bank - business savings account
Funds held by activity groups
Funds held centrally on behalf of activity groups

Debtors & Prepayments:
Meeting room & venue hire
Monthly meeting visitors fees

Total Assets

Less: Current Liabilities

Annual subscriptions received in advance
Activity Group Current Accounts: -
Badminton
Bridge
Garden Visits

Sundry creditors & accruals: -

Accountancy
Group Leaders Lunch
Meeting room & venue hire
Postage, stationery & office supplies
Speaker fees
Subscription Refunds

Total Net Assets

Represented by:

Income & Expenditure Account b/fwd
Cash introduced by new Groups
Add: Excess income over expenditure 2024/25

Less: Sale proceeds on disposals
Less: Depreciation and Adjustments
Income & Expenditure Account c/fwd

As at 28 February 2025		
Groups	Main	Total
	5,741	
	2,509	
	0	
	8,250	
	-5,644	
	2,606	2,606
	5,015	5,015
	984	984
	10,173	10,173
2,099	0	2,099
1,165	0	1,165
	0	0
	0	0
3,264	18,778	22,042
	0	0
	-1	-1
	-180	-180
	-984	-984
	-168	-168
	-461	-461
	-243	-243
	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
3,264	16,741	20,005

As at 29 February 2024		
Groups	Main	Total
	5,980	
	285	
	-524	
	5,741	
	-5,265	
	476	476
	5,601	5,601
	1,057	1,057
	8,069	8,069
2,362	0	2,362
1,238	0	1,238
	0	0
	0	0
3,600	15,203	18,803
	0	0
	-1	-1
	-180	-180
	-1,057	-1,057
	-160	-160
	0	0
	-33	-33
	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
3,600	13,772	17,372

3,600	13,772	17,372
0	0	0
-336	3,348	3,012
3,264	17,120	20,384
0	0	0
0	-379	-379
3,264	16,741	20,005

2,324	10,738	13,062
0	0	0
1,276	3,272	4,548
3,600	14,010	17,610
	-275	-275
0	37	37
3,600	13,772	17,372

These financial statements were approved by the executive committee on 2 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

We have examined, on a sample basis, the books and records presented to us by Towcester U3A.
We consider these financial statements to be a true reflection of the records of Towcester U3A.

Essenden Accounts & Tax Limited

Essenden Accounts & Tax Ltd

Dated:

15/5/2025

Towcester u3a - Receipts & Payments Summary for Activity Groups as at 28 February 2025

	Groups Funds 01/03/24	Subscriptions Received	Car Parking	Coach Hire	Consumable Materials & Equipment	Entrance Fees	Food & Refreshments	Postage, Stationery & Office Expenses	Room & Venue Hire	Speaker Expenses (Inc. Guides)	Groups Funds 28/02/25	Notes
	Group Suspended Jan 2024											
Antiques & Collectibles	0.00										0.00	
Art Appreciation 1	6.38	331.00							-330.00		7.38	
Art Appreciation 2	45.00	474.00					-62.00		-396.00		61.00	
Badminton - cash	273.08	1,193.60			-17.98				-1,113.60		335.10	
Badminton - bank	1.00										1.00	
Bridge - cash	333.65	2,301.00					-209.46	-228.49	-2,050.00		146.70	
Bridge - bank	180.00										180.00	
Canasta	44.13	228.00			-39.63				-222.00		10.50	
Cookery	19.18										19.18	No activity during year
Drawing	10.00										10.00	No activity during year
Folk Dancing	165.97	1,119.00					-52.10		-918.00	-58.60	256.27	
Garden Visits - bank	1,057.04	8,049.49	-361.00	-5,325.00		-1,781.50	-655.26				983.77	
Gardening	-7.85										-7.85	No returns during year
Genealogy	16.30	958.00					-75.15		-610.50	-30.00	258.65	
Jazz	14.03	365.00			-31.32		-39.05		-275.00		33.66	
London Explorers 2	4.00	2,039.00				-2,039.00	-4.00				0.00	
London Explorers 3	103.78	1,330.00				-1,394.50					39.28	
Painting for Pleasure	283.74	532.00					-61.80		-607.20		146.74	
Photography	6.05										6.05	No activity during year
Pickleball	85.53	1,454.50			-90.19		-19.21		-1,351.65		78.98	
Pickleball 2	277.00	1,670.00			-7.60		-67.05		-1,702.40		169.95	
Reading for Pleasure	128.50	100.00							-198.00		30.50	
Reading Between the Crimes	21.00	93.00					-39.50		-74.50		0.00	
Science for All	26.40	498.00					-181.60		-294.80		48.00	
Table Tennis	481.96	1,842.50			-53.74		-154.66		-1,691.25		424.81	
Theatre Trips	0.00	2,407.00				-2,407.00					0.00	No activity during year
Ukulele	23.82										23.82	
	0.00										0.00	
	3,599.69	26,985.09	-361.00	-5,325.00	-240.46	-7,622.00	-1,620.84	-228.49	-11,834.90	-88.60	3,263.49	
Excess payments over receipts = £336.20												
Cash held by activity groups 2,098.72												
Funds held on behalf of Badminton Gro 1.00												
Funds held on behalf of Bridge Group 180.00												
Funds held on behalf of Garden Visits 983.77												
3,263.49												

TOWCESTER U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1155428

Accounts



TOWCESTER u3a Registered Charity Number 1155428 Annual Report for period from AGM May 2023 to AGM May 2024

At our AGM at the end of May 2023, a committee was elected. The majority of the previous committee agreed to serve for another year.

The day to day running of the branch has returned to normal ie no longer via Zoom but we have continued with the digital voting for the purposes of the AGM.

Trustee Committee Members

The Trustee Committee Members re-elected at the 2023 AGM and responsible for managing Towcester u3a during the above period were:

Stephen Porter (Chairman)
Terry Goldfinch (Treasurer)
Deborah Heaphy (Business secretary)
Alison Foxton (Publicity secretary)
Anne Parkes (Speaker Seeker)
Jill Stewart (Group Co-ordinator)
Alison Burnley (Membership secretary)
Jenny Rigby
Tricia Burningham (Minute secretary)
Marilyn Shone

The committee meet regularly on the first Monday of each month, except for January. Stephen Porter has decided to stand down as Chair at this AGM. The Committee are very grateful for his efforts over the last 2 years. The branch has progressed and this is reflected in the membership increasing. All other members of the committee are standing for re-election at the 2024 AGM.

Charitable Purpose, Structure and Governance

The u3as in the UK are autonomous, self-help organisations run by the voluntary efforts of their members. All u3as are members of the Third Age Trust (TAT), a registered charity, which is the national support and advisory body. Each u3a is operationally independent but as members of the Third Age Trust each agrees to follow the principles of the u3a movement. Being a self-help learning co-operative is what makes u3a unique.

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Groups

We now have over 50 groups, ranging from “Alternative Poetry” to “Understanding the Stock Market”. This includes two “Art Appreciation” groups, two “Boys Toys” groups, three “Genealogy” groups, two “London Explorer” groups, and a number of walking groups - one “Nordic Walking”, two “Ramblers”, and one “Striders” - this year has seen the addition of “Strollers” and “Coffee and Cake”. A full list of the current groups is available on our website. Please contact the relevant group coordinator if you are interested in joining one of the groups.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings at Towcestrians have continued during the last year with some great speakers. We are noticing a steady increase in attendance and the variety of speakers is meaning a different audience at each meeting.

Membership

We have held a number of New Members Meetings at the Sawpits Centre at which new (and old) members had the opportunity to find out what interest groups are available and to meet some of the group coordinators. These continue to be well attended and more are planned this year. We have also started to bring the membership up to date by going fully digital. Our Membership Secretary Alison Burnley has been working very hard to get this system ready and it is hoped that renewals and new memberships will be digital going forward.

Publicity

Our main publicity vehicle is our website, at <https://www.towcesteru3a.co.uk/>, and we also publish regular items in the Towcester Town Crier and the Towcester Focus magazine.

For our members we issue a monthly Bulletin and we have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TowcesterU3A> which members can join and post news items and photos.

Finance

Towcester u3a financial statement for the year ended 29th February 2024, as examined by Essendon Accounts & Tax Ltd., is the subject of a separate document. In summary, our income over the year was £12,089, whilst expenditure was less than anticipated at £8,817, leaving a surplus of £3,272 that has been added to our reserves. The expected rise in fuel costs and room hire has not yet materialised, and Anne Parkes has been extremely diligent in securing speakers for our monthly meetings at very reasonable rates. We expect income and expenditure in the coming year to be in the region of £12,000. We do not expect to need to increase the membership fee for the foreseeable future.

Chairman's Remarks

As chairman, I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the committee who have done an excellent job of working together to make all these things happen. I hope to see this continue for another year. I will be standing down as Chair and wish the Committee all the best for the coming year.

Thank you all.
Stephen Porter,
Chair

Towcester U3A (Charity Number 1155428)
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 29 February 2024

Income

Activity Groups: General Income	23,390	0	23,390
Coordinators' lunch receipts	0	0	0
Annual Membership Subscriptions	0	12,024	12,024
Donations & Sundry Income	0	5	5
Anniversary Sponsorship (from Prior Year)	0	0	0
Bank Interest Received	0	60	60
Total Income	23,390	12,089	35,479

Year Ended 29 February 2024		
Groups	Main	Total
23,390	0	23,390
0	0	0
0	12,024	12,024
0	5	5
0	0	0
0	60	60
23,390	12,089	35,479

Year Ended 28 February 2023		
Groups	Main	Total
18,907	0	18,907
0	493	493
0	9,496	9,496
0	12	12
0	250	250
0	9	9
18,907	10,260	29,167

Expenditure

Accountancy	0	-160	-160
Activity costs: Coach trips	-2,760	0	-2,760
Coordinators' lunch	0	0	0
Capitation fees	0	-2,384	-2,384
Car Parking for Garden Visits Group	-45	0	-45
Consumable materials	-174	0	-174
Direct mail of national magazine	0	-1,435	-1,435
Entrance & admission fees	-7,421	0	-7,421
Food & refreshments for meetings	-1,852	-10	-1,862
Gratuities & Gifts	0	0	0
Licenses	0	-108	-108
Membership Database	0	-660	-660
Motor & travel expenses	0	-40	-40
Postage, stationery & sundry office expenses	-133	-279	-412
Publishing Expenses	0	0	0
Room & venue hire	-9,291	-2,788	-12,079
Speaker fees & costs	-438	-788	-1,226
Sundry - Anniversary Expenses	0	0	0
Sundry - Card Reader Fees	0	-25	-25
Sundry - Other	0	0	0
Website	0	-140	-140
Total Expenditure	-22,114	-8,817	-30,931

Groups	Main	Total
0	-160	-160
-2,760	0	-2,760
0	0	0
0	-2,384	-2,384
-45	0	-45
-174	0	-174
0	-1,435	-1,435
-7,421	0	-7,421
-1,852	-10	-1,862
0	0	0
0	-108	-108
0	-660	-660
0	-40	-40
-133	-279	-412
0	0	0
-9,291	-2,788	-12,079
-438	-788	-1,226
0	0	0
0	-25	-25
0	0	0
0	-140	-140
-22,114	-8,817	-30,931

Groups	Main	Total
0	-150	-150
-4,425	0	-4,425
0	-656	-656
0	-2,388	-2,388
-217	0	-217
-79	0	-79
0	-1,468	-1,468
-4,659	0	-4,659
-1,868	-51	-1,919
0	0	0
0	-358	-358
0	-660	-660
0	-16	-16
-100	-318	-418
0	0	0
-8,077	-2,611	-10,688
-83	-1,091	-1,174
0	-342	-342
0	0	0
0	-40	-40
0	-120	-120
-19,508	-10,269	-29,777

Excess Income over Expenditure

1,276	3,272	4,548
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-601	-9	-610
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Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Activity groups hold their own funds and operate on a self-financing basis. Their general income is therefore determined by whatever level of expense they incur. Group coordinators are responsible for the maintenance of their financial records. A summary of their finances for the year ended 29 February 2024 is provided on a following page. Due to the need to report these finances in a simple and straight forward manner without excessive detail, this summary has been prepared on a strict receipts and payments basis without regard for any accruals or prepayments.
- 2 The Executive Committee has sole responsibility for the Main finances.

Balance Sheet**Fixed Assets**

Total Cost b/fwd
 Add: Purchases this year
 Less: Disposals this year
 Total cost to-date
 Less: Total depreciation to-date

Current Assets

Cash at bank - main account
 Cash at bank - no. 2 account (Garden Visits)
 Cash at Bank - business savings account
 Funds held by activity groups
 Funds held centrally on behalf of activity groups

Debtors & Prepayments:
 Meeting room & venue hire
 Monthly meeting visitors fees

Total Assets**Less: Current Liabilities**

Annual subscriptions received in advance
 Activity Group Current Accounts: -
 Badminton
 Bridge
 Garden Visits

Sundry creditors & accruals: -
 Accountancy
 Co-ordinators Lunch
 Meeting room & venue hire
 Postage, stationery & office supplies
 Speaker fees
 Subscription Refunds

Total Net Assets**Represented by:**

Income & Expenditure Account b/fwd
 Cash introduced by new Groups
 Add: Excess income over expenditure 2023/24
 Less: Sale proceeds on disposals
 Less: Depreciation and Adjustments
 Income & Expenditure Account c/fwd

As at 29 February 2024		
Groups	Main	Total
	5,980	
	285	
	-524	
	5,741	
	-5,265	
	476	476
	5,601	5,601
	1,057	1,057
	8,069	8,069
2,362	0	2,362
1,238	0	1,238
	0	0
	0	0
3,600	15,203	18,803
	0	0
	-1	-1
	-180	-180
	-1,057	-1,057
	-160	-160
	0	0
	-33	-33
	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
3,600	13,772	17,372

As at 28 February 2023		
Groups	Main	Total
	6,562	
	0	
	-582	
	5,980	
	-5,276	
	704	704
	4,518	4,518
	665	665
	6,009	6,009
1,546	0	1,546
778	0	778
	0	0
	0	0
2,324	11,896	14,220
	-20	-20
	-1	-1
	-112	-112
	-665	-665
	-150	-150
	0	0
	-210	-210
	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
2,324	10,738	13,062

2,324	10,738	13,062
0	0	0
1,276	3,272	4,548
3,600	14,010	17,610
	-275	-275
0	37	37
3,600	13,772	17,372

2,925	11,030	13,955
0	0	0
-601	-9	-610
2,324	11,021	13,345
	0	0
0	-283	-283
2,324	10,738	13,062

These financial statements were approved by the executive committee on **13th MAY** 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

We have examined, on a sample basis, the books and records presented to us by Towcester U3A.
 We consider these financial statements to be a true reflection of the records of Towcester U3A.

Essendon Accounts & Tax Limited
Essendon Accounts & Tax Ltd

Dated: **22/4/2024**

Towcester u3a - Receipts & Payments Summary for Activity Groups as at 29 February 2024

	Groups Funds 01/03/23	Subscriptions Received	Car Parking	Coach Hire	Consumable Materials & Equipment	Entrance Fees	Food & Refreshments	Postage, Stationery & Office Expenses	Room & Venue Hire	Speaker Expenses (Inc. Guides)	Groups Funds 29/02/24	Notes
Antiques & Collectibles	4.80	134.65					-19.45		-120.00		0.00	Group Suspended Jan 2024
Art Appreciation 1	4.88	337.50							-336.00		6.38	
Art Appreciation 2	26.00	303.00					-38.00		-246.00		45.00	
Badminton - cash	87.01	1,176.00			-19.98				-969.95		273.08	
Badminton - bank	1.00										1.00	No activity during year
Bridge - cash	165.44	2,286.50					-225.31	-132.98	-1,760.00		333.65	
Bridge - bank	180.00										180.00	
Canasta	35.11	223.00							-213.98		44.13	
Cookery	19.18										19.18	No activity during year
Drawing	10.00										10.00	
Folk Dancing	194.27	1,128.00					-57.80		-897.60	-200.90	165.97	
Garden Visits - bank	664.54	5,095.00	-45.00	-2,760.00		-1,027.50	-870.00				1,057.04	
Gardening	-1.85	27.00					-69.55		-33.00		-7.85	No activity during year
Genealogy	55.85	702.00					-46.00		-672.00		16.30	
Jazz	2.40	317.50			-9.87		-120.00		-250.00		14.03	
London Explorers 2	4.50	2,507.45				-2,137.45	-120.00		-13.00	-237.50	4.00	
London Explorers 3	103.78	387.50				-387.50			-528.00		103.78	No activity during year
Painting for Pleasure	152.17	714.00					-54.43				283.74	
Photography	6.05										6.05	
Pickleball	71.43	1,250.00			-41.97		-25.98		-1,167.95		85.53	
Pickleball 2	0.00	277.00									277.00	No activity during year
Reading for Pleasure	90.00	265.00							-226.50		128.50	
Reading Between the Crimes	0.00	42.00							-21.00		21.00	
Science for All	48.75	462.65					-199.00		-286.00		26.40	
Table Tennis	375.13	1,885.13			-102.45		-126.35		-1,549.50		481.96	No activity during year
Theatre Trips	0.00	3,869.00				-3,869.00					0.00	
Ukulele	23.82										23.82	
	0.00										0.00	
	2,324.26	23,389.88	-45.00	-2,760.00	-174.27	-7,421.45	-1,851.87	-132.98	-9,290.48	-438.40	3,599.69	

Excess receipts over payments = £1275.43

Cash held by activity groups	2,361.65
Funds held on behalf of Badminton Gro	1.00
Funds held on behalf of Bridge Group	180.00
Funds held on behalf of Garden Visits	1,057.04
	<u>3,599.69</u>

TOWCESTER U3A

England & Wales - Charity number 1155428

Accounts



TOWCESTER u3a Registered Charity Number 1155428 Annual Report for period from AGM May 2022 to AGM May 2023

At our AGM at the end of May 2022, a new committee was elected. The previous committee did a brilliant job in ensuring that Towcester u3a continued to thrive during the very difficult period of the pandemic. All deserve appreciation and in particular huge thanks should go to Carol Lucas, who juggled multiple roles and kept everyone motivated. She deserves a well-earned 'retirement'.

As Covid restrictions were being relaxed, in May 2022 our AGM was a mixture of digital and face to face meeting. Reports, voting papers, minutes of the 2021 AGM, and committee nominations were all distributed and the voting completed on line or by post prior to the face-to-face meeting. The voting results were announced at the face-to-face meeting on May 25th, and published in the May 2022 bulletin.

Trustee Committee Members

The Trustee Committee Members responsible for managing Towcester u3a during the above period were:

Stephen Porter (Chairman, elected May 2022)
David Parker (Vice-Chairman, elected May 2022 stood down January 2023)
Terry Goldfinch (Treasurer re-elected May 2022)
Stephen Warden (Membership secretary elected May 2022 stood down December 2022)
Deborah Heaphy (Business secretary elected May 2022)
Alison Foxton (Publicity secretary elected May 2022)
Anne Parkes (Speaker Seeker re-elected May 2022)
Jill Stewart (Interest Groups Liaison officer elected May 2022)
Alison Burnley (Membership secretary co-opted December 2022)
Jenny Rigby (Co-opted April 2023)
Tricia Burningham (Minute secretary co-opted April 2023)

Since last year's AGM there have been changes to the committee. Stephen Warden and David Parker stood down, and 3 new members were co-opted: Alison Burnley, Jenny Rigby, and Tricia Burningham. We are extremely grateful to the new members for their willingness to become part of the team.

The committee meet regularly on the first Monday of each month, except for January. All members of the committee are standing for re-election at the 2023 AGM.

Charitable Purpose, Structure and Governance

The u3as in the UK are autonomous, self-help organisations run by the voluntary efforts of their members. All u3as are members of the Third Age Trust (TAT), a registered charity, which is the national support and advisory body. Each u3a is operationally independent but as members of the Third Age Trust each agrees to follow the principles of the u3a movement. Being a self-help learning co-operative is what makes u3a unique.

Towcester u3a was formed in 2010 with the stated charitable purpose of the advancement of education of those who are retired from full time work, by activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Towcester and its surrounding area. Towcester u3a is a registered charity governed by our constitution which was amended in 2018, and then again in 2019, and again in 2021 to allow for virtual meetings. Our committee members are charity trustees and are elected by the membership at the AGM although new trustees may be co-opted in between AGMs and then stand for election at the next AGM.

Groups

As we emerged from the Covid epidemic and its associated restrictions, most of our groups have re-started their regular meetings and several new ones have been formed. We now have 51 groups, ranging from “Alternative Poetry” to “Understanding the Stock Market”. This includes two “Art Appreciation” groups, two “Boys Toys” groups, three “Genealogy” groups, two “London Explorer” groups, and four walking groups (one “Nordic Walking”, two “Ramblers”, and one “Striders”). A full list of the current groups is available on our website.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings at Towcestrians started again in April 2022 as we emerged from the Covid pandemic. The number attending has gradually increased as the Covid restrictions have eased, and we have all slowly regained our confidence.

We now have speakers scheduled for every month, except December, until July 2024, with a wide range of subjects including “The Art of Punch and Judy” and “The History of British Piers”.

Membership

Following a drop in membership during the Covid pandemic, our membership numbers have now recovered to approximately 600.

We have held two successful New Members Meetings at the Sawpits Centre at which new (and old) members had the opportunity to find out what interest groups are available and to meet some of the group coordinators.

Publicity

Our main publicity vehicle is our website, at <https://www.towcesteru3a.co.uk/>, and we also publish regular items in the Towcester Town Crier and the Towcester Focus magazine.

For our members we issue a monthly Bulletin, and we have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TowcesterU3A> which members can join and post news items and photos.

u3a 40th Anniversary

To mark the u3a movement's 40th anniversary in 2022 the Third Age Trust created a u3a anniversary woodland situated in the Brecon Beacons. Towcester u3a contributed to this by purchasing 10 trees. We have also planted three trees in Saxon Fields, Towcester, to mark our 10th anniversary.

Finance

Main Account

Towcester u3a financial statement for the year ended 28th February 2023, as examined by Essendon Accounts & Tax Ltd., is the subject of a separate document. In summary, our income over the year was £10,260, almost exactly balanced by an expenditure of £10,269. Next year we are expecting the expenditure to increase to about £12,265. This will be matched by an increase in income to approximately £12,620 thanks to the agreed increase in the membership fee to £20.

Groups

In addition to the main account, some of our groups receive subscriptions from group members to cover items such as venue hire, admission fees, coach hire, and refreshments. In total, this amounts to an additional £18,907 income and £19,508 expenditure.

Total

Our total income for the year, including groups, was therefore £29,167, slightly exceeded by the total expenditure of £29,777. Our cash reserves stood at £13,516 in February 2023, approximately equal to six month's operating costs.

Charity Registered Address

7 Oat Hill Road,
Towcester,
Northamptonshire,
NN12 6EZ.